

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20-22 have been amended. Claims 17-19, 23, and 33-60 have been canceled. Claims 1-17 and 20-22 are pending.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Any reference herein to “the invention” is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 23 was previously objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 17-19 and 23, which have been canceled. Claims 20-22 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 1 is thus allowable, as are claims 2-16 and 20-22 depending therefrom.

Claims 33-60 have been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and allowance of the application without submission of a Request for Continued Examination is respectfully requested as described in MPEP 1214.07 which reads, in part, as follows:

... If the amendment obviously places an application in condition for allowance, regardless of whether the amendment is filed with an RCE, the primary examiner should recommend that the amendment be entered, and

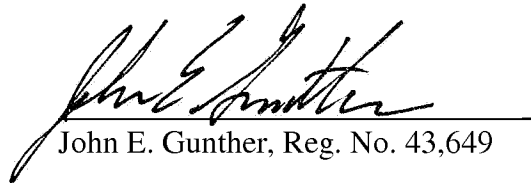
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Response to Decision on Appeal dated 09/12/2007

with the concurrence of the supervisory patent examiner, the amendment will be entered. ...

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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